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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

June 26, 2006

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The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Duncan:

I was incensed that General Casey's recommendations to the President and Secretary Rumsfeld for possible force redeployments in the coming months were leaked by someone in the administration to *The New York Times*. Such a leak does not benefit considered deliberation of military operations; it can only serve a political purpose. Members of this committee, in overseeing the Department of Defense, should have been kept informed of our senior military commander's best thinking and administration decisions in an appropriate forum, rather than by reading it on the front page of the paper.

However, given that the proposed plan is now in the public domain, I think it is important that the Armed Services Committee consider it, the likely strategic situation in Iraq over the coming months, and the implications of it for our forces. I respectfully request that we hold hearings and briefings with members of the administration and outside experts during the July session.

Sincerely,


Ike Skelton
Ranking Democrat